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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CROPS AND MARKETS

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ARGENTINA FREES BEEF PRICES

Beef for local consumption in Argentina was freed from ceiling prices on December 12. Prices are said to have risen sharply. The Argentine Meat Board has ordered a sharp reduction in chilled beef exports planned for the first quarter in 1959. This move was reportedly taken to provide more meat for domestic consumption and to reduce retail prices.

INDIA MAY HARVEST
RECORD RICE CROP

There are indications that India may have a record 1958-59 harvest of around 29 million long tons of milled rice (97,500 million pounds rough), although it is too early in the season to know what the final outcome will be. The previous record crop was 28,282,000 tons (95,112 million pounds) in 1956-57.

The northern states of India, especially Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, have bumper crops; it is not yet possible to estimate the important paddy crops of Andhra Pradesh and the Madras states in south India. Prices of rice and coarse grains have begun to drop slightly in north India but remain firm in the south.

GREEK FARMERS WANT GOVERNMENT TO BUY MORE TOBACCO

Greek farmers are still discontented over the government's reluctance to buy domestic grades of 1957-crop tobacco. By the end of October, the government had bought about 16.5 million pounds of export leaf under the price-support program. An additional 15.4 million pounds of marketable export grades and 6.6 million pounds of unsalable leaf were scheduled to be purchased by December 1.

About 35 million pounds of the 1957 crop were suitable for domestic cigarette manufacture. Annual requirements for domestic grades, however, are nearer 24 million pounds, and manufacturers have not taken much of the surplus for stocks. Growers holding such tobacco are, therefore, pressing for its inclusion in the government purchase program.

PROGRESS IN AUSTRALIAN TOBACCO RESEARCH

Australia's comprehensive tobacco research program of recent years is showing results. Its major objectives are to improve the quality and lower the price of domestic flue-cured tobacco.

Several experiments to reduce mold damage in tobacco fields and to breed mold-resistant varieties have been encouraging. It is hoped that success in research, and the consequent stimulation of tobacco production will help Australia to supply more of its leaf requirements from home-grown tobacco and thus reduce import needs.

BULGARIA SELLING TOBACCO IN WESTERN EUROPE

Yugoslav reports indicate that Bulgaria has sold sizable quantities of unmanufactured tobacco in Western Europe this year. Nearly 9 million pounds are said to have been sold to West Germany, and a significant amount to Communist Bloc countries. The 1958 Bulgarian crop has been forecast at roughly 88 million pounds.

COLOMBIA ENCOURAGING TOBACCO PRODUCTION

Under its program to expand tobacco production, the Colombian Tobacco Institute began parceling out farms to tobacco growers this year. A house and tobacco barn is furnished with each farm. To date, about 10,000 acres have been acquired for this program; this will provide farms for about 320 families.

The Tobacco Institute reports that in 1958 nearly 5,000 acres were planted in Magdalena Province for the first time. A small amount of new acreage also is expected to be planted in Cordoba in 1959.

U. S. CHICKEN EXPORTS UP SHARPLY

The United States exported 26 million pounds of fresh or frozen chicken during January-October 1958. Shipments were 20 percent above those in the first 10 months of 1957.

Switzerland, the largest market for U. S. chicken, imported 7.4 million pounds during this period--about two-thirds more than in comparable 1957. Other large customers were Canada and West Germany. Canada took more U. S. chickens through October this year than it did last year, but West Germany took 15 percent less.

Despite the virtual embargo on imports of turkey into Canada, the major market for U. S. turkeys prior to July 1957, U. S. turkey exports during January-October 1958 totaled nearly 3½ million pounds, with West Germany taking the largest quantities.

Exports of baby chicks during the 10 months were down 14 percent from a year ago, but in the latter part of the period they were larger than a year earlier. Canada has continued to be an important market.

U. S. exports of shell eggs through October were down 29 percent from last year. While there is no comparable 1957 data, it is believed that 1958 exports of hatching eggs, at 5.4 million dozen, were up moderately from last year and that the decline in table egg exports is sharper than indicated by total egg exports. Shell egg shipments to Venezuela, at 13.9 million dozen, were down 31 percent.

Commodity	Unit	January-October		1958 change from 1957
		1957	1958	
		Thou.	Thou.	Percent
Baby chicks.....	head	14,040	12,013	-14
Chickens:				
Broilers and fryers.....	pounds	1/	15,532	---
Roasters and stewers.....	pounds	1/	10,467	---
Total.....	pounds	21,630	25,999	+20
Other poultry and game:				
Turkeys.....	pounds	1/	3,454	---
Other.....	pounds	1/	5,075	---
Total.....	pounds	9,851	8,529	-13
Eggs in the shell:				
Hatching.....	dozen	1/	5,361	---
Other.....	dozen	1/	14,602	---
Total.....	dozen	28,002	19,963	-29

1/ Breakdown not available.

FRANCE EXPORTING LESS BUTTER

In the first 9 months of 1958, France's exports of butter amounted to 11.8 million pounds--a decline of 11 percent from the same period of 1957. Heavier shipments to the United Kingdom did not offset greatly reduced exports to other important markets, among them Morocco, Switzerland, and West Germany.

Butter imports into France were also down substantially from a year earlier; net exports through September thus continued at about the 1957 level.

U. S. BUTTER EXPORTS UP SHARPLY;
OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS DOWN

U. S. exports of butter during January-October 1958, at 23.4 million pounds, were up substantially from the low level of comparable 1957 shipments. Increased shipments to Israel under Title I of Public Law 480 were largely responsible for the gain. Exports of anhydrous milk fat were also well above 1957 exports.

Evaporated milk exports dropped about 45 percent from last year. Shipments to the Philippines, the major market for U. S. evaporated milk, were only 48.8 million pounds--less than one-half of comparable 1957 shipments.

Dried whole milk exports continued to lag behind 1957. Venezuela continued to be the major market in January-October 1958. It took about 20 million pounds, compared with 27 million in the same period last year. Nonfat dry milk exports through October 1958 (exclusive of donations under Section 416, Title III, of Public Law 480) were running about 20 percent below shipments for this period in 1957.

DUTCH BUTTER EXPORTS UP

Dutch butter exports during January-September 1958 came to 77.1 million pounds, and were 40 percent higher than in the comparable period of 1957. This increase was largely due to heavier shipments to the United Kingdom (69 percent of total shipments) which more than offset a decline in exports to Belgium and West Germany.

More cheese went to all the major markets in this period, and at 158.4 million pounds, exports were 15 percent above 1957.

Condensed milk exports in the 9-month period dropped to 372 million pounds from 377.5 million in 1957. While many of the main outlets--among them Morocco, Peru, and the Philippines--took less, Thailand, Malaya, and Hong Kong took considerably more. Dried whole milk exports were down 8 percent to 46.1 million pounds, due to smaller takings by Belgium, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia. Dried skimmed milk shipments dropped to 3.3 million pounds from 8.7 million in 1957.

FINLAND BARTERS RUSSIAN WHEAT FOR SWISS APPLES

After lengthy negotiations, Finland has agreed to send Switzerland 10,000 metric tons (1 ton equals 37.6 bushels) of Russian wheat in exchange for 2,000 metric tons of Swiss table apples. Finland obtained the wheat from the U.S.S.R. in exchange for Finnish butter.

Under its contract with the U.S.S.R., Finland must take 100,000 tons of Russian wheat in exchange for butter during the year ending June 30, 1959. As Finland's storage facilities are glutted, it is having difficulty in storing the wheat. Two ships have been chartered for additional storage, and 6 other will probably be needed.

Finland will ship the Russian wheat to Switzerland via the Rhine. To insure efficient distribution, the Federal Cereals Administration of Switzerland will distribute it to each mill in accordance with the mill's basic wheat quota allocation. The Cereals Administration will store the wheat for mills which are unable to take over their allotment at once.

U. K. MILK OUTPUT DOWN

The United Kingdom's milk output in October 1958, at 1,660 million pounds, was 7 percent below comparable 1957. Over 80 percent (1,347 million pounds) of the October output was consumed as fluid milk, compared with 74 percent (1,333 million pounds) a year earlier.

Condensed milk, dried milk, and chocolate crumb took the largest quantity of milk available for manufacturing, using 127.2 million pounds, against 105.4 million pounds in October 1957. Milk used for cheese was down to 113.5 million pounds from 190.6 million. Cream production in October accounted for somewhat more milk than last year (39 million pounds this year, 29.7 million last year). A balance of only 33.4 million pounds of milk was available for butter, whereas butter manufacture took 134.3 million pounds in October 1957.

GREECE ENCOURAGING SHIFT FROM WHEAT- GROWING TO OTHER FARM ENTERPRISES

Measures to reduce wheat production are being taken by the Government of Greece. They include a decrease in government purchases of homegrown wheat under price supports, and loans to encourage farmers to shift to other crops--notably hay and forage crops, feed grains, vegetables, and sugar beets-- and to livestock breeding.

The new policy was announced on October 30, just prior to seeding of wheat. The government stated that its earlier policy, characterized by large government purchases or concentration of domestic wheat at prices much higher than the world market level, was jeopardizing the country's economy. It emphasized the following points:

(1) During the past 2 years the government's annual concentration of domestic wheat has amounted to about 500,000 metric tons (18.4 million bushels), all of it under price supports. This has cost the Greek people the equivalent of \$21.7 million per year, of which \$16.7 million was a charge on bread and \$5 million a subsidy from the budget.

(2) Foreign wheat in this period cost only 2.97 drachmas per oke (\$2.11 per bushel), while the government's final cost of concentrating domestic wheat was 4.55 drachmas per oke (\$3.23 per bushel).

(3) The large amounts of currency which government price supports for wheat required to be placed in circulation in the 2 or 3 months immediately following harvests did not revert back to the Bank of Greece for several months, thus impeding adequate financing of other branches of the economy.

(4) Wheat price supports made it impossible to take full advantage of opportunities to buy U. S. wheat for drachmas, which can be used to promote land reclamation and other essential agricultural projects.

(5) Farmers' eagerness to take advantage of high price supports necessitated large government expenditures for fertilizers and improved seeds so farmers could get higher yields, which already are 80 percent above prewar. Continuation of these policies would result in such excess production that subsidies would also be needed to move surplus wheat into export channels.

To bring its wheat policy gradually into line with the country's basic economic need, the government decided that in 1959 it would:

(1) Limit price-supported wheat purchases to 400,000 metric tons (14.7 million bushels; (2) purchase only from growers having no more than 80 stremmas (19.8 acres) of wheat; (3) purchase no wheat grown in state irrigation projects; (4) abolish the "basic" and "privileged" price-support system in favor of a uniform concentration price based on quality, and (5) lower the actual 1959 crop support, to be announced immediately prior to harvesting, to a level between the basic price and the privileged price (equivalent to \$2.48 and \$3.26 per bushel, respectively), being paid for the 1958 harvest.

To help wheat growers shift to other crops the government will:

(1) Grant two medium-term loans equal to \$10 million each to expand irrigation and to develop the livestock industry; (2) speed up the establishment of milk and cheese plants, and bring about better valorization of milk production; (3) increase credit advances to farmers for the purchase of forage crop seed at substantially reduced prices under state subsidy; (4) establish more forage crop demonstration plots; (5) provide seeds of corn, sorghum, and pulse hybrids and of other suitable spring crops; and (6) establishment of additional forage crop demonstration plots to guide producers.

YUGOSLAVIA FIXES PRICES FOR 1959 GRAIN CROPS

Yugoslavia's guaranteed minimum prices for 1959 grain crops have been fixed at 36 dinars per kilogram for wheat; 33 dinars for rye; and 31 dinars for corn, barley, and oats. The equivalents in dollars per bushel, on the basis of 400 dinars to the dollar, are: wheat \$1.63; rye, \$1.40; corn, \$1.31; oats, \$0.75; and barley, \$1.12.

The Government will take over at these prices unsold stocks of grain still held by the agricultural cooperatives, State farms, and peasant work collectives at the end of the season. The cooperatives are the exclusive buyers of grain from private growers, although some inter-peasant trading in grains is permitted. Actual minimum prices which the cooperatives can pay to private growers are expected to be 4 dinars per kilogram less. The difference represent a deduction from the guaranteed prices to cover an allowance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ dinars per kilo (2.2 pounds) for the operating expenses of the cooperative and $2\frac{1}{2}$ dinars per kilo for the cooperative's agricultural development fund.

The guaranteed prices are for deliveries f.o.b. railway car, railway warehouses, and mill storage plants of grain fit for human consumption, free of foreign taste and odor, and meeting the following specified standards:

Grain	Weight : per hectoliter : Kilograms	Foreign matter: and impurities: : Percent	Moisture content : Percent
Wheat.....	76	2	13
Rye.....	70	2	13
Barley.....	63	2	13
Oats.....	43	2	13
Corn 1/	1/	1/	14

1/ Not specified. Specifications provide only for a maximum tolerance of 2 percent broken kernels and the indicated moisture content.

For each kilogram of variation in hectoliter weight, the purchase price is increased or reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$ percent. For each additional percentage point of foreign matter and of moisture content above the indicated allowance, the price is reduced by 1 percent. Conversely, the price will be increased by 1 percent for each percent below the tolerance.

The overall objective of the guaranteed price system is to encourage increased production by both private and socialist sectors and the general adoption of modern production techniques, especially for wheat and corn. To accomplish this, the general cooperatives are obliged to pay private producers at least the guaranteed minimum prices, less the stated deductions for operating expenses and for the agricultural development fund. Grain imports and exports are a government monopoly.

Item	Vegetable Oils		Lard		Total	
	1957 1/	1958 2/	1957 1/	1958 2/	1957 1/	1958 2/
	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
	1,000 short tons					
Supply:						
Stocks, January 1.....	5.6	8.1	30.9	18.7	36.5	26.8
Production from:						
Domestic materials.....	16.6	23.0	104.7	110.2	121.3	133.2
Imported materials.....	10.0	0	0	0	10.0	0
Imports.....	21.8	39.8	28.4	31.5	50.2	71.3
Total supply.....	54.0	70.9	164.0	160.4	218.0	231.3
Distribution:						
Direct consumption.....	43.1	48.9	143.3	137.3	186.4	186.2
Industrial use 3/	2.8	6.3	2.0	1.7	4.8	8.0
Exports.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stocks, December 31.....	8.1	15.7	18.7	21.4	26.8	37.1
Total distribution.....	54.0	70.9	164.0	160.4	218.0	231.3

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary estimate. 3/ Used by the fish canning industry and the margarine and shortening industry.

INDIA ANNOUNCES EXPORT QUOTA FOR PEANUTS

The Government of India on November 21 announced an export quota of 25,000 long tons (28,000 short tons) of HPS (hand-picked-selected) peanuts for export to all permissible destinations during the period ending March 1959. The total quantity of peanuts authorized for export this year is 35,000 long tons (39,200 short tons).

CUBAN CATTLE SLAUGHTER DOWN

Cuban cattle and hog slaughter during the first 9 months of 1958 dropped slightly from the same period last year. However, beef and veal production increased slightly due to the heavier weight of animals slaughtered. Total meat production rose somewhat.

Imports of U. S. cured pork were about the same as in the first 9 months of 1957. Imports of lard during the third quarter of 1958 increased 12 percent over imports in the corresponding period of 1957, while tallow imports jumped 34 percent above comparable 1957 shipments. The United States was the sole supplier.

Lard imports during all of 1958 are expected to show a slight increase over 1957. Tallow imports will be up at least 15 percent, largely due to the increased demand for tallow in the expanding poultry feed industry.

Although cattle are said to be in excellent condition, sales have dropped because of the uncertain political situation. Movement of cattle from Oriente Province has been almost completely stopped, but the important cattle-raising areas of Camaguey and Las Villas have been sending good numbers of cattle to market (see Foreign Crops and Markets, June 23, 1958). Cuba's estimated livestock slaughter and meat production for the 9-month January-September period of 1958 is compared below with data for 1956 and 1957.

Jan.-Sept.	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep	Goats	Meat produced <u>1/</u>
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1956.....	678	645	28	25	340.0
1957.....	698	640	27	27	356.0
1958.....	<u>2/</u> 685	632	27	27	358.8

1/ Carcass weight. 2/ May be underestimated due to unreported cattle slaughter by rebel forces.

NORWAY IMPORTS SWEDISH PORK

Norway imported about 7 million pounds of pork from Sweden during the second half of 1958. Norwegian hog slaughter declined about 6 percent during 1958 and is expected to remain low in 1959. Imports will thus probably continue during 1959.

ATROPHIC RHINITIS IN NETHERLANDS

An outbreak of atrophic rhinitis among Dutch hogs has necessitated the mandatory killing of over 15,000 hogs in the province of Limburg. This respiratory disease is new to the Netherlands, and the government is taking severe measures to wipe it out.

DOMINION WOOL PRICES
SHOW MIXED TREND

Dominion wool prices showed a mixed trend in November, with merinos continuing to decline and crossbreds improving slightly. Crossbred values have been very firm this season but merino types have continued their sharp decline which began in May 1957. The relative strength of New Zealand crossbreds in November may be due to a pickup in U. S. and U. K. demand.

Dominion prices in November were 40 to 45 percent below the May 1957 level and 25 to 30 percent below a year earlier. Merino 64's were at the lowest level since March 1948.

WOOL: Clean cost per pound, c.i.f. United Kingdom, based on auction sales in Dominions and United Kingdom, specified dates

Quality	May 1957	November 1957	July 1/ 1958	September 1958	October 1958	November 1958
	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
70's.....	1.74	1.35	1.14	1.07	.98	.95
64's.....	1.63	1.25	1.05	.97	.90	.89
60's.....	1.52	1.19	.97	.89	.83	.83
58's.....	1.39	1.13	.88	.82	.79	.79
56's.....	1.27	1.02	.83	.79	.78	.77
50's.....	1.07	.85	.67	.64	.64	.65
48's.....	1.04	.83	.64	.62	.62	.63
46's.....	1.02	.82	.63	.61	.60	.62

1/ London auction sales only.

Source: New Zealand Wool Commission (London Agency).

U. S. COTTON LINTERS EXPORTS AT SAME LEVEL IN OCTOBER

U. S. exports of cotton linters, mostly chemical qualities, were 22,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in October 1958. This was the same as September exports, but 16 percent higher than the 19,000 bales exported in October 1957. Exports during August-October 1958 totaled 57,000 bales, against 66,000 bales a year earlier. ..

Principal destinations of linters exports during August-October 1958, with comparable 1957 figures in parentheses, were: West Germany 23,000 bales (38,000); Canada 9,000 (8,000); United Kingdom 9,000 (12,000); France 9,000 (5,000); Japan 5,000 (2,000); and Switzerland 1,000 (0).

U. S. IMPORTS MORE COTTON LINTERS IN SEPTEMBER

U. S. imports of cotton linters, mostly felting qualities, totaled 23,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in September 1958. In comparison, 12,000 bales were imported in August, and 9,000 bales in September 1957. Imports during August-September 1958 totaled 34,000 bales, compared with 16,000 bales imported in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Principal sources of linters imports during August-September 1958, with comparable 1957 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 26,000 bales (10,000); El Salvador 4,000 (661); Nicaragua 2,000 (52); and the U.S.S.R. 2,000 (2,000).

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS DOWN IN OCTOBER

U. S. exports of cotton (all types) in October 1958 were 188,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (181,000 running bales). They were down 15 percent from September exports of 221,000 bales and well below exports of 504,000 bales in October 1957. Exports during August-October 1958 were 623,000 bales (602,000 running bales), against 1,249,000 bales a year earlier.

Sales under the 1958-59 cotton export program of the Commodity Credit Corporation, for export between August 1, 1958, and July 31, 1959, totaled 1,807,146 running bales as of December 8, 1958. The average selling price, basis Middling 1-inch cotton, average location, was 28.56 cents per pound for the December 8 sales, compared with 28.68 cents per pound for the previous sales on November 24, 1958. In addition to the CCC sales, cotton exported from commercial stocks, under the "payment-in-kind" program, totaled 203,874 bales as of December 8.

Cotton exports in the 1958-59 season may do well to reach 4,000,000 running bales, compared with 5,718,000 bales in 1957-58.

COTTON: United States exports of cotton by country of destination, averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1956 and 1957, August-October 1957 and 1958

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1					
	Average		1956	1957	August-October	
	1935-39:	1950-54:			1957	1958
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Austria.....	0	38	55	55	12	4
Belgium & Luxembourg.....	169	121	337	182	63	13
Denmark.....	33	29	25	26	6	3
Finland.....	35	13	33	19	9	3
France.....	662	431	433	367	37	99
Germany, West.....	511	382	1,061	623	189	38
Italy.....	442	379	722	572	113	41
Netherlands.....	107	127	260	113	23	7
Norway.....	17	14	21	13	3	1/
Poland & Danzig.....	180	2/ 1	27	248	79	45
Portugal.....	36	3/ 9	91	24	7	3
Spain.....	108	142	174	217	5	58
Sweden.....	115	53	111	130	27	9
Switzerland.....	11	42	121	81	25	3
United Kingdom.....	1,346	434	1,050	709	195	48
Yugoslavia.....	17	86	141	115	1	1/
Other Europe.....	4/ 96	5	38	18	8	1/
Total Europe.....	3,885	2,306	4,700	3,512	802	374
Australia.....	9	3/ 39	81	67	13	19
Canada.....	301	311	380	277	59	13
Chile.....	9	24	74	35	20	1
Colombia.....	20	30	52	69	30	4
Cuba.....	11	19	31	46	12	2
French North Africa.....	5/	9	17	11	3	5
Hong Kong.....	5/	3/ 11	95	138	27	24
India.....	52	253	301	114	16	1
Indonesia.....	5/	19	43	31	10	5
Israel.....	5/	12	19	18	0	1/
Japan.....	1,142	871	1,589	1,174	202	96
Korea, Republic of.....	5/	80	220	207	17	25
Philippines.....	2	9	36	59	11	12
Taiwan (Formosa).....	5/	85	162	110	1/	33
Union of South Africa....	5/	6	31	37	8	6
Other countries.....	6/ 158	50	7/ 86	54	19	3
Total 500-lb. bales:	5,589	4,134	7,917	5,959	1,249	623
Total running bales:	5,300	3,977	7,598	5,717	1,199	602

1/ Less than 500 bales. 2/ One year only. 3/ 4-year average. 4/ Includes Czechoslovakia 65 and Norway 17. 5/ If any, included in other countries. 6/ Includes China 117, and French Indochina 22. 7/ Includes Bolivia 11, Pakistan 28, and Uruguay 15.

DANISH PORK PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO RISE

Although Danish pork production in 1958 is expected to be only slightly above 1957, output will probably show a sharp rise in 1959. Strong export prices during recent months have encouraged producers; sow numbers are up sharply, indicating heavy marketings next year.

CATTLE NUMBERS DOWN IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE

Cattle numbers in the Buenos Aires province of Argentina dropped from 16,829,823 head on June 30, 1957, to 15,576,500 head on the same date this year--a drop of 7 percent. A similar decline very likely occurred throughout the country. Buenos Aires province had about one-third of the 44-million-head national cattle herd in 1957. The province is an important breeding and finishing area for beef cattle destined for the large Buenos Aires packing houses (see Foreign Crops and Markets, July 7, 1958).

During 1956 and 1957, cattle slaughter for both export and domestic markets was unusually high. It is generally admitted throughout Argentina that slaughter must be reduced or there will be a critical meat shortage within the next few years. Beef exports have already dropped in spite of strong foreign demand, and domestic retail prices have risen sharply (see Foreign Crops and Markets, July 28 and December 1, 1958).

BRAZIL ACTS TO STIMULATE CANNED MEAT EXPORTS

The Brazilian Superintendency of Currency and Credit (SUMOC) has announced that foreign currency earned by canned meat exports may now be exchanged for Brazilian cruzeiros at the free-market rate of about 140 cruzeiros to the dollar. As the previous exchange rate was 92 to 1, the new rate will have the effect of increasing exporters' gross returns more than 50 percent. Brazilian exporters can either increase their returns on export sales or export at lower prices without decreasing returns.

CANADIAN HOG SLAUGHTER TO SHOW SHARP RISE

The Canadian Department of Agriculture has forecast hog marketings during October-December 1958 at 32 percent above the same period in 1957. During the first quarter of 1959, marketings are forecast at 21 percent above a year earlier, and during the second and third quarters (April through September), they are expected to be 16 percent above the corresponding 1958 period. On the basis of these forecasts, inspected hog slaughter should be about 6,570,000 head during the 12 months ending September 30, 1959--21 percent above the 5,420,000 head slaughtered during the 12 months ending September 30, 1958.

FEWER SPANISH OLIVES FOR U.S.

Spain's 1959 table olive exports to the United States may be as much as 25 percent below the 1958 level, according to Seville trade sources. Tonnage pickled is reported to be about the same as last year, but a much larger percentage of it is said to be unsuitable for export as a result of dacus fly infestation and exceptionally hot summer weather.

WINTER VEGETABLE ACREAGE IN
MEXICO AND CUBA UP SHARPLY

Cuban and Mexican vegetable acreage is much larger than usual this season because of the very high prices growers received last season when frost damaged Florida and Texas crops.

Early-planted acreage on the west coast of Mexico was severely damaged by heavy rains and floods. There was also some damage on the east coast, and recent heavy rains are reported in that area. West coast weather has been good for the past 2 months and crops are now progressing well. However, shipments are likely to be light until late January. Cuba has had favorable weather most of the season.

The sharp uptrend in "staked" tomato acreage continues in both countries. One acre of "staked" tomatoes will usually yield 4 to 5 times as many marketable tomatoes as 1 acre of ground tomatoes.

WINTER VEGETABLES: Acreage planted in specified produce for
export to the United States and Canada, 1955-56 through
1958-59, seasons beginning early winter

Area and commodity	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
West Coast: MEXICO				
Tomatoes, green.....	39,400	34,300	30,800	51,700
Tomatoes, staked.....	200	500	1,900	5,400
Peppers, bell.....	2,500	3,800	2,400	4,200
Peas.....	1,900	3,400	2,100	3,000
Cantaloups.....	4,400	5,000	2,800	3,800
Watermelons.....	4,600	4,800	3,000	6,800
Miscellaneous.....	1,100	1,000	1,200	1,100
East Coast (Tampico-Mante):				
Tomatoes, green.....	6,000	15,000	5,000	---
CUBA				
Tomatoes, green.....	---	2,000	500	1/4,000
Tomatoes, staked.....	---	1,500	2,000	2,500
Cucumbers.....	---	4,000	4,500	3,700

1/ Includes Italian-type tomatoes for cooking and processing.

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10-16-58 Exchange Unit
F-CR-C For Swedish FederationTHAI RICE CROP IN
AVERAGE CONDITION

Thailand's rice crop of 1958-59 is expected to be about 7,300,000 metric tons of rough rice (16 billion pounds). This is about a normal outturn, and is up sharply from the 1957-58 level of 5,724,000 tons (12.6 billion pounds). That crop was hard hit by lack of rain.

At mid-November, rainfall throughout Thailand was reported the lowest in years. The unusually low level of the Chao Phraya River, which flows through the central plain area, was causing some concern for this year's yields, but the crop was believed far enough along to avert other than localized damage.

The Foreign Trade Department of Thailand and mid-November lifted the ban on rice exports that had been imposed in early September. The receipt of newly-harvested rice stocks made this possible. Thai rice exports in 1958 will probably be around 1,100,000 metric tons of milled rice, down sharply from 1957 exports of 1,576,000 tons. January-August exports amounted to 900,054 metric tons, compared with 1,152,000 tons in the same months of 1957.

Exports in the January-August period declined perceptibly to the heavy rice importing countries of Asia, such as Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ceylon, Malaya, and Singapore. On the other hand exports to Mauritius, North Borneo, Okinawa, the Philippines, West Africa, and The West Indies were larger.





